



For Release: Tuesday, March 24, 2015

15-430-CHI

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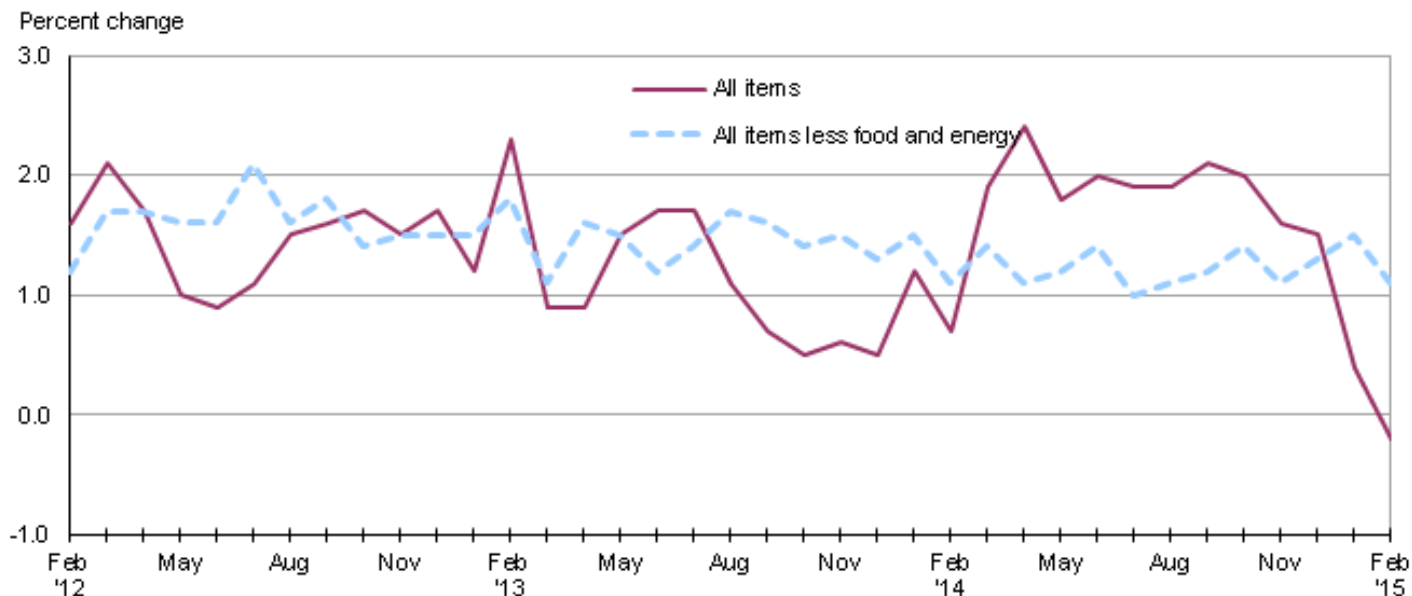
Consumer Price Index, Chicago-Gary-Kenosha - February 2015

Local prices down 0.2 percent over the year

The Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U) in the Chicago-Gary-Kenosha area was unchanged in February, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reported today. Regional Commissioner Charlene Peiffer noted that energy prices rose 2.5 percent while food prices declined 0.5 percent in February. The all items less food and energy index decreased 0.2 percent over the month. Among the indexes within the all items less food and energy index, prices rose for shelter and medical care. Prices were lower for recreation; education and communication; and other goods and services in February. (Data in this report are not seasonally adjusted. Accordingly, month-to-month changes may reflect the impact of seasonal influences.)

Over the last 12 months, the Chicago area all items CPI-U decreased 0.2 percent. (See [chart 1](#) and [table A](#).) The energy index fell 16.3 percent over the year as falling gasoline and utility (piped) gas services prices surpassed increases in the cost of electricity. The all items less food and energy index was 1.1 percent higher over the year. (See [table 1](#).)

Chart 1. Over-the-year percent change in CPI-U, Chicago, February 2012–February 2015



Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Food

Food prices fell 0.5 percent in February following a 0.2 percent increase in January. Of the two components within the food index, prices for food at home (groceries) fell 1.1 percent and prices for food away from home (restaurant, cafeteria, and vending purchases) rose 0.4 percent, over the month.

From February 2014 to February 2015, the food index increased 2.4 percent. Grocery food prices rose 2.1 percent over the year, while prices for food eaten away from home increased 2.7 percent compared to last February.

Energy

The energy index was up 2.5 percent in February due to increases in gasoline prices (11.5 percent). In contrast, utility (piped) gas service costs fell (-9.3 percent) and the electricity index was unchanged from January to February.

On an annual basis, the Chicago area energy index declined 16.3 percent. Over the year, gasoline and utility (piped) gas service costs fell 31.8 percent and 19.4 percent, respectively, while the index for electricity rose 24.6 percent.

All items less food and energy

The index for all items less food and energy decreased 0.2 percent in February. Among the index's components, prices were lower for recreation (-3.3 percent), education and communication (-0.6 percent), and other goods and services (-1.3 percent). Prices were higher, in contrast, for shelter (0.2 percent) and medical care (0.4 percent).

Over the year, the index for all items less food and energy increased 1.1 percent. Annual increases in the indexes for shelter (2.7 percent), medical care (3.8 percent), and education and communication (0.7 percent) were the major contributing factors. Apparel prices were down 9.8 percent over the year.

Table A. Chicago CPI-U 1-month and 12-month percent changes, all items index, not seasonally adjusted

Month	2011		2012		2013		2014		2015	
	1-month	12-month	1-month	12-month	1-month	12-month	1-month	12-month	1-month	12-month
January.....	0.6	1.4	0.6	2.1	0.2	1.2	0.9	1.2	-0.2	0.4
February.....	0.5	1.8	0.0	1.6	1.1	2.3	0.5	0.7	0.0	-0.2
March.....	0.8	2.3	1.2	2.1	-0.1	0.9	1.1	1.9		
April.....	0.4	2.7	0.0	1.7	0.0	0.9	0.5	2.4		
May.....	0.6	3.3	-0.1	1.0	0.5	1.5	-0.1	1.8		
June.....	0.0	3.8	-0.1	0.9	0.1	1.7	0.4	2.0		
July.....	-0.4	3.2	-0.2	1.1	-0.2	1.7	-0.4	1.9		
August.....	0.2	3.2	0.6	1.5	0.1	1.1	0.1	1.9		
September.....	0.2	3.1	0.3	1.6	-0.2	0.7	0.0	2.1		
October.....	-0.2	2.9	-0.2	1.7	-0.3	0.5	-0.4	2.0		
November.....	-0.2	2.9	-0.4	1.5	-0.3	0.6	-0.8	1.6		
December.....	-0.5	2.1	-0.3	1.7	-0.3	0.5	-0.4	1.5		

The March 2015 Consumer Price Index for Chicago is scheduled to be released on Friday, April 17, 2015, at 7:30 a.m. (CT).

Technical Note

The Consumer Price Index (CPI) is a measure of the average change in prices over time in a fixed market basket of goods and services. The Bureau of Labor Statistics publishes CPIs for two population groups: (1) a CPI for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U) which covers approximately 89 percent of the total population and (2) a CPI for Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers (CPI-W) which covers 28 percent of the total population. The CPI-U includes, in addition to wage earners and clerical workers, groups such as professional, managerial, and technical workers, the self-employed, short-term workers, the unemployed, and retirees and others not in the labor force.

The CPI is based on prices of food, clothing, shelter, and fuels, transportation fares, charges for doctors' and dentists' services, drugs, and the other goods and services that people buy for day-to-day living. Each month, prices are collected in 87 urban areas across the country from about 4,000 housing units and approximately 26,000 retail establishments--department stores, supermarkets, hospitals, filling stations, and other types of stores and service establishments. All taxes directly associated with the purchase and use of items are included in the index.

The index measures price changes from a designated reference date (1982-84) that equals 100.0. An increase of 16.5 percent, for example, is shown as 116.5. This change can also be expressed in dollars as follows: the price of a base period "market basket" of goods and services in the CPI has risen from \$10 in 1982-84 to \$11.65. For further details see the CPI home page on the Internet at www.bls.gov/cpi and the BLS Handbook of Methods, Chapter 17, The Consumer Price Index, available on the Internet at www.bls.gov/opub/hom/homch17_a.htm.

In calculating the index, price changes for the various items in each location are averaged together with weights that represent their importance in the spending of the appropriate population group. Local data are then combined to obtain a U.S. city average. Because the sample size of a local area is smaller, the local area index is subject to substantially more sampling and other measurement error than the national index. In addition, local indexes are not adjusted for seasonal influences. As a result, local area indexes show greater volatility than the national index, although their long-term trends are quite similar. **Note: Area indexes do not measure differences in the level of prices between cities; they only measure the average change in prices for each area since the base period.**

The **Chicago-Gary-Kenosha, Ill.-Ind.-Wis.** consolidated area covered in this release is comprised of Cook, DeKalb, DuPage, Grundy, Kane, Kankakee, Kendall, Lake, McHenry, and Will Counties in Illinois; Lake and Porter Counties in Indiana; and Kenosha County in Wisconsin.

Information in this release will be made available to sensory impaired individuals upon request. Voice phone: (202) 691-5200; Federal Relay Service: (800) 877-8339.

Table 1. Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U): Indexes and percent changes for selected periods Chicago-Gary-Kenosha, IL-IN-WI (1982-84=100 unless otherwise noted)

Item and Group	Indexes			Percent change from-		
	Dec. 2014	Jan. 2015	Feb. 2015	Feb. 2014	Dec. 2014	Jan. 2015
Expenditure category						
All items	226.262	225.852	225.763	-0.2	-0.2	0.0
All items (1967=100)	675.977	674.753	674.487	-	-	-
Food and beverages	239.696	240.287	239.125	2.1	-0.2	-0.5
Food	239.290	239.683	238.529	2.4	-0.3	-0.5
Food at home	238.423	238.969	236.419	2.1	-0.8	-1.1
Food away from home	235.088	235.255	236.108	2.7	0.4	0.4
Alcoholic beverages	244.012	247.522	246.250	-1.5	0.9	-0.5
Housing	231.194	231.396	231.163	2.4	0.0	-0.1
Shelter	283.784	285.014	285.694	2.7	0.7	0.2
Rent of primary residence ⁽¹⁾	301.381	301.829	302.719	3.4	0.4	0.3
Owners' equiv. rent of residences ^{(1) (2)}	289.997	290.716	290.960	2.0	0.3	0.1
Owners' equiv. rent of primary residence ^{(1) (2)}	289.997	290.716	290.960	2.0	0.3	0.1
Fuels and utilities	208.151	205.290	200.001	3.7	-3.9	-2.6
Household energy	177.344	172.906	166.431	2.4	-6.2	-3.7
Energy services ⁽¹⁾	180.839	176.372	169.744	3.2	-6.1	-3.8
Electricity ⁽¹⁾	169.046	174.173	174.159	24.6	3.0	0.0
Utility (piped) gas service ⁽¹⁾	180.138	162.824	147.670	-19.4	-18.0	-9.3
Household furnishings and operations	97.701	96.766	97.047	-2.0	-0.7	0.3
Apparel	89.021	88.807	87.730	-9.8	-1.5	-1.2
Transportation	181.549	173.342	178.625	-9.8	-1.6	3.0
Private transportation	178.718	169.819	174.975	-10.3	-2.1	3.0
Motor fuel	232.615	188.814	210.332	-31.8	-9.6	11.4
Gasoline (all types)	229.771	186.485	207.984	-31.8	-9.5	11.5
Gasoline, unleaded regular ⁽³⁾	223.141	180.349	201.849	-32.5	-9.5	11.9
Gasoline, unleaded midgrade ^{(3) (4)}	250.433	206.098	226.320	-29.2	-9.6	9.8
Gasoline, unleaded premium ⁽³⁾	236.445	196.316	215.707	-27.9	-8.8	9.9
Medical care	456.459	462.307	463.965	3.8	1.6	0.4
Recreation ⁽⁵⁾	108.077	112.665	108.898	-0.6	0.8	-3.3
Education and communication ⁽⁵⁾	142.664	142.461	141.542	0.7	-0.8	-0.6
Other goods and services	381.911	383.756	378.645	-1.2	-0.9	-1.3
Commodity and service group						
All items	226.262	225.852	225.763	-0.2	-0.2	0.0
Commodities	167.390	164.448	165.278	-4.8	-1.3	0.5
Commodities less food & beverages	130.456	126.071	127.742	-9.8	-2.1	1.3
Nondurables less food & beverages	170.381	161.195	164.122	-14.2	-3.7	1.8
Durables	92.185	92.338	92.820	-1.5	0.7	0.5
Services	282.032	284.011	283.054	2.5	0.4	-0.3
Special aggregate indexes						
All items less medical care	216.409	215.722	215.555	-0.6	-0.4	-0.1
All items less shelter	207.004	206.012	205.651	-1.6	-0.7	-0.2
Commodities less food	134.624	130.415	132.021	-9.4	-1.9	1.2
Nondurables	205.796	201.172	202.179	-5.7	-1.8	0.5
Nondurables less food	175.366	166.812	169.529	-13.3	-3.3	1.6
Services less rent of shelter ⁽²⁾	294.935	297.793	295.044	2.3	0.0	-0.9
Services less medical care services	268.693	270.353	269.296	2.4	0.2	-0.4
Energy	198.467	178.729	183.155	-16.3	-7.7	2.5
All items less energy	230.696	232.128	231.608	1.3	0.4	-0.2

Note: See footnotes at end of table.

Table 1. Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U): Indexes and percent changes for selected periods Chicago-Gary-Kenosha, IL-IN-WI (1982-84=100 unless otherwise noted) - Continued

Item and Group	Indexes			Percent change from-		
	Dec. 2014	Jan. 2015	Feb. 2015	Feb. 2014	Dec. 2014	Jan. 2015
All items less food and energy	229.948	231.578	231.173	1.1	0.5	-0.2

Footnotes

(1) This index series was calculated using a Laspeyres estimator. All other item stratum index series were calculated using a geometric means estimator.

(2) Index is on a December 1982=100 base.

(3) Special index based on a substantially smaller sample.

(4) Indexes on a December 1993=100 base.

(5) Indexes on a December 1997=100 base.

- Data not available.

Note: Index applies to a month as a whole, not to any specific date.